

REMARKS

Claims 1-103 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 16, 24, 31, and 81 because they did not end with a period. Claims 16, 24, 31, and 81 have been amended to include a period. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection to claims 16, 24, 31, and 81 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-31, 39-50, 51-61, and 66-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the text "retrieving at least a portion of the data stored in the first location using the secret" does not make sense. The Examiner then assumes that the line should be interpreted as "retrieving at least a portion of the data stored in *the location different from* the first location using the secret." Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that both the specification and the claim language teach that, in some embodiments, the secret may be used to retrieve data that has been stored in the first location. See Patent Application, page 71, line 16 – page 72, line 16 and Figure 27. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are clear and, furthermore, that the Examiner's interpretation of these claims is incorrect. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-31, 39-50, 51-61, and 66-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hotley (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,704). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Hotley describes reading one or more key bits from an ACP memory 10-2b. A program is also stored in the ACP memory 10-2c. The key bits are stored in one or more lock bits in a

portion 54a of a memory 103a-n. On power up, the lock bits may be compared to the key bits to verify whether or not the memory 103a-n may be accessed. Thus, Hotley describes reading the key bits (and the program) from a first location (e.g. the ACP memory 10-2b) and storing them in a second location (e.g. the memory 103a-n), which is not secure. The key bits and the program are then used to access data stored in the second location (e.g. the memory 103a-n).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Hotley fails to teach or suggest reading a secret from a first location, securing the secret in a secure location different from the first location, and retrieving at least a portion of the data stored in the first location using the secret, as set forth in independent claims 1, 51, 55, and 66.

Applicants also submits that Hotley fails to teach or suggest storing a secret within a first location and storing code different from the secret within the first location, where the code is configured to provide access to data stored in the first location when processed in association with the secret, as set forth in independent claims 32, 64, and 97.

Applicants also submits that Hotley fails to teach or suggest a first location configured to store code, a secret, and data different from the secret and different from the code, and a master device operably coupled to the first location, wherein the master device is configured to read the secret from the first location and to store the secret in a secure location different from the first location, and wherein the master device is further configured to access the data stored in the first location using the secret, as set forth in independent claim 39.

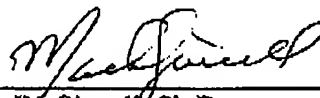
For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not anticipated by Hotley and requests that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-103 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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